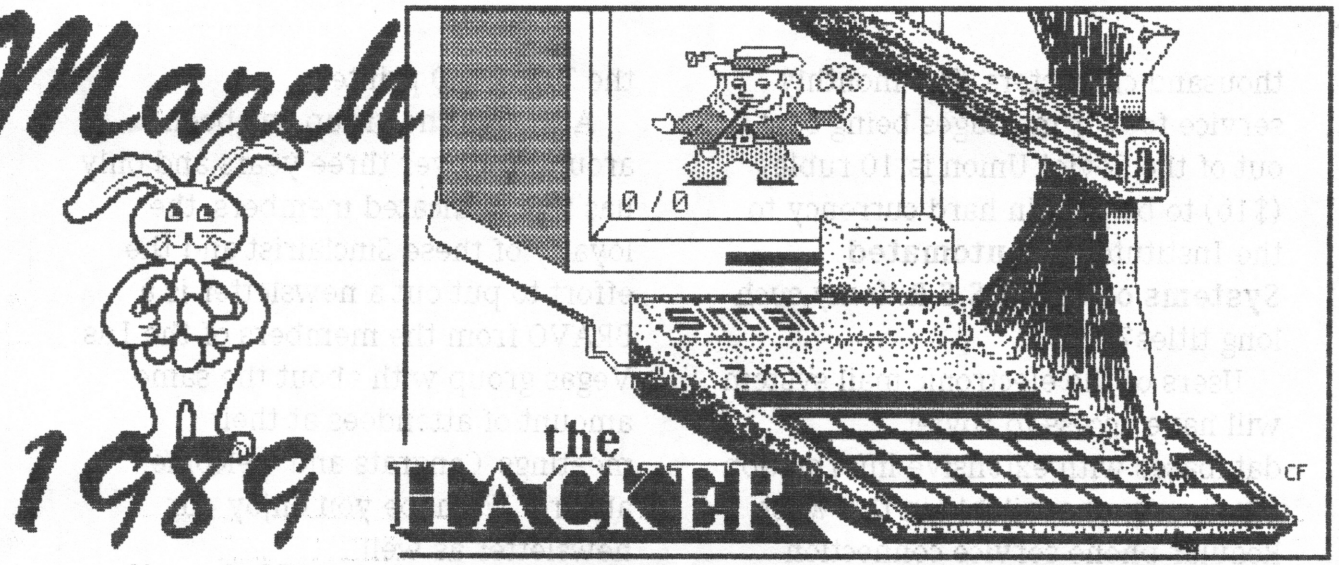

Newsletter dedicated to the Sinclair family of computing

"the HACKER" is an official publication of the Timex/Sinclair User Group of Las Vegas-a non profit, educational organization. Subscription to the "HACKER" is $15.00 per year (12 issues) and includes membership to TSUG of LV. Please remit to:

Ralph Hammer(treasurer)
2105 Oakwood Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89030

MEMO

LET'S GET TOGETHER

March 18, 1989---1-3 p.m.
PC-SIG----------3-4 p.m.
the public is WELCOME

Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month and include a light buffet lunch for members and guests. The meetings are held at 2345 Moorpark Way, Henderson, NV

BOARD of DIRECTORS:

CHRIS FENN----------641-4082
RALPH HAMMER--------649-4127
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CONTRIBUTING STAFF:

STEVE SAWCHUK——————— EDITOR
DAWN SAWCHUK———CO-EDITOR/MAILING
RALPH HAMMER———PROGRAM EDITOR
CHRIS FENN——————— ART DIRECTOR

ELECTRONIC MAIL BOOSTS U.S. - SOVIET TIES

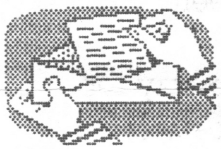
It was reported in the Las Vegas Review-Journal on Janurary 30th. that Electronic mail is lifting superpower relations to a whole new level.

In the spirit of improved U.S.-U.S.S.R. relations, a California firm has established a dedicated electronic mail link that is enlarging information exchange between Americans and their Soviet counterparts. This paves the way for electronic communications between business persons, scientists, educators, journalists and other organizations on a daily basis. The system will operate off any personal computer with a modem.

U.S. commercial users of the service are charged a flat fee of $200 a month and 25 cents for each minute they are on line with the Soviet Union. The connect time from the U.S.S.R. to the U.S. is 42 cents a minute and 74 cents for each

thousand characters. The monthly service fee for messages being sent out of the Soviet Union is 10 rubles ($16) to be paid in hard currency to the Institute for **Automated Systems of the U.S.S.R.** (why such long titles?).

Users of the electronic mail system will have access to Soviet databases with extensive information previously unavailable in the West. Regular phone service connection from Moscow to America can run as high as $10 per minute. To avoid difficulties in past data transmission services, the **Teleport** is using special error-correcting modems. Supposedly, these modems can avoid reading stray or missing characters when poor phone connections occur. All the user has to do is dial their local telecommunications company and connect directly with IDB, then the user types in ID codes and passwords, then BINGO they are connected up with the U.S.S.R.



CRAGIST N/L NEWEST ON LIST OF EXCHANGE OF INFO.

CRAGIST (Cedar Rapids And Greater Iowa Sinclair Timex) has asked HACKER N/L for an exchange of newsletters on a copy-for-copy basis. And I'm proud to say that the offer has been accepted by the staff of the HACKER.

The Janurary '89 issue that we recieved has a neat project on a battery pack for the T/S 1000 and the T/S/2040 printer.

Although the group has been around for over three years and only has five dedicated members, the loyalty of these Sinclairist and the effort to put out a newsletter is a BRAVO from the members of the Las Vegas group with about the same amount of attendees at their meetings. Congrats and welcome aboard. We hope you enjoy our newsletter as well.

BILL HEBERLEIN LISTS SOLUTIONS TO "HACKER" CONTEST

As stated in last months issue, Bill won the contest that the HACKER sponsored and not only did Bill find the bug, he found four more that would make the program run better. Here is a copy of the letter that Bill wrote Ralph Hammer stating the solutions:

Ralph:

Enclosed with this note is my solution to your program problem. These were the only things I saw as either possible problems or screen displays.

Line 6480-Recheck keyboard if not "S" or "P"

Line 7255-Print downstairs entry better.

Line 7850-Check for keyboard entry

Line7880-Recheck keyboard if not "S" or "P"

Line 9460-Return & do-not overprint "BAT" with ZOMBIE

Thanks Bill, for the corrections

GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

RENEWAL NOTICE

This notice is to remind the following people that their subscription/membership is due on March 1, 1989

N. Buckland **L.E. Stransky**
R.Curnutt * **B.Dunlop**
R.Borgens

Without your support, We can't function. Please renew today.
(* denotes renewal received)

GIVE ME A BREAK !!!!!!

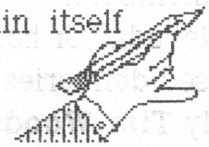
Janurary 23rd's issue of **Newsweek magazine** reports that West Germany has given a new meaning to the term computer virus: infecting the electronic bulletin boards of the Federal Republic are a growing number of neo-nazi computer games. They bear names like **"Aryan Test"** and **"Concentration Camp Manager"**. Players of **"Cleaning Up Germany"** score points by killing Jews, Turks, homosexuals and environmentalists to the strains of "Deutschland uber Alles. " **The "Anti-Turks Test"** features the digitized voice of Nazi propaganda minister of Joseph Goebbels.

Though illegal in West Germany, the game disks are swapped in schoolyards and circulated through computer networks, making interdiction nearly impossible. The authorities know of at least 20 games-but don't know who's designing them. Last year a raid on apartments of suspected neo-Nazis netted copies of some of the games, but no proof that they were produced on site. By the end of 1987, about 11 percent of German households had a personal computer, and, warns **Jurgen Lindenau** of the **Office for Youth Protection**, "One should assume that just about every youngster who owns a computer and uses it for playing games has come across the Nazi software sooner or later." The hope is the games are too crude for anything beyond brief curiosity

Editors note: this story is not ment to offend anyone. It is to inform the reader that there are some sick programmers out there that think programs like these are "cute". A virus in a computer is a lot eaiser to cure than one that shows up in the human mind.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

An idea, like a ghost, must be spoken to a little before it will explain itself



--Dickens--

ADVERTISER'S SPECIAL

The "HACKER" will run for its commerical readers, a 1/2 page ad, for six months, for $30. That's only $5. per issue. remit to: "the HACKER"

Sierra Nevada Airways SNA

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==========

GUESS WHAT I SAW ????

No, not Elvis or Jimmy Hoffa. A real copy of the Sept./Oct.'88 issue of **Time Designs Magazine**.

Unfortunately, this copy is a loaner from another member, who was gracious enough to let the editor read it. The library issue has not been received as of this writing, nor has copies for two other members.

Has **TDM** missed Nevada? Or has the mail service refused deliveries to the "Silver State". Only **Tim Woods** knows. But as of yet, no past issues.

The one I did get to see, has a very well written, in-depth interview with **Nigle Searle**, #2 man to Sir Clive. I sure hope that the Nov./Dec.'88 and the Jan./Feb.'89 issues arive soon.

All-in-all **TDM** is a great magazine, when you can find one.

BAD NEWS

I received the **SLIX Newsletter** recently, and to my surprize, while reading it I found a letter from **Don Lambert** to SLIX that **Zebra Systems,** a T/S vendor, is selling off their stock and will no longer support **Timex Sinclair**. Unless the Timex Users start coming up with something new, we will be cast along the wayside. Think about this.

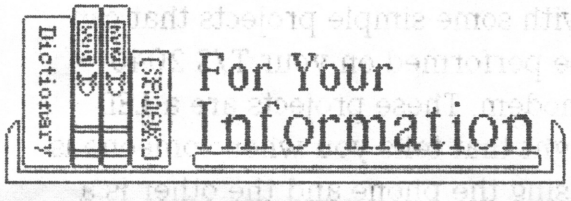
NEW LIFE FOR THE QL

The latest issue of the **RAMTOP** newsletter has a article about the MS-DOS emulator for the QL that **Sharps** will have in about 2 months. This info was uploaded to the **Timelines BBS Data Line**. the Phone # is (216) 671-6922. From 10 PM--6 AM E.S.T Check it out, it might be worth your while, give the QL life.

FIRST CLUB Z88 NEWSLETTER OUT

The first issue of **Club Z88** has hit the mailboxes of the owners of the lightest laptop on the market. The newsletter is the brain child of several well known Z88 users. The Chief Editor is **Tim Woods**, with **Paul Bingham** as Managing Editor, **Chris Fenn** as Technical Editor and **Rob Curry** as Associate Editor. With a team like this, how can they go wrong. The first issue is a 20, packed page, magazine.The **PIPE-LINE** is published six times a year by the same people who bring you the famous TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE.

Among the articles appearing, is a article about **Phil Wheeler**, an avid user and the BBS that he has started up for the Z88. PIPE-LINE is worth it if you own the Z88 and want more out of it than the manual has to offer.



This months meeting started off with a visit to the ole feed bag, with tacos and some good ole hot salsa. Then it was off to the meeting, with full tummys and hot tongues. This John Sumpolic showed off some of his software for the IBM compatables. We had a hard time reminding him which drive was which. The group discussed the newsletters that had been received since the last meet. There were some great articles in them, which kept everyones attention.

Spring fever must be setting in with the other members, because everyone must be out doing something eles. Lets get out and support the group. Remember, it's your group. So do something and show up at the meetings. Until March

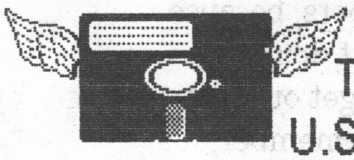
BYTE REVIEWS Z88

Byte Magazine, a McGraw-Hill Pub., Feb.'89 issue, has finally completed an in-depth review of the lightest laptops available. The article was written by **Jerry Pournelle**, who writes a column entitled **"Computing At Choas Manor"**.

Although the review is a bit distorted, as far as losing files goes, the overall remarks are favorable for the Z88 (pronounced Zed-88, if your British). The one feature that Jerry liked was the size and weight as well as the layout of the keyboard. The display was in his opinion was not an 8 x 80. In fact he mentions a 6 x 72. And he also rambles on about something to do with X-rays and airports. He claims that when he turns off the machine, the files that he didn't save, just fadded away. Causing him to lose notes about **COMDEX**.

I think that Jerry should have read the owners manual more before he took the Z88 to such an assignment as the the annual COMDEX show.

Well Jerry's off to another assignment with the 88 in hand. So lets see if he can get the hang of it this time and not lose anything. Maybe he will be more careful with airport security and x-ray machines.



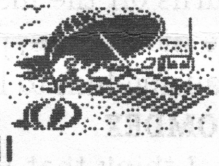
ENGLAND TO RECEIVE U.S. DONATION

Phil Wheeler is at it again, attempting to bridge the gap with users of the Z88 here and abroad. Phil has gathered together approximatly 20 files of programs for the 88 and has assembled these on an eprom cartridge. These programs are on its way to **Surrey, England** to the **Z88 User's Club, Software Library**.

In the (we hope trade) cartridge is a program that was converted by Chris Fenn. If you remember he converted a program called Wizz88.CLI. This is an adventure type game that is over 20K.

If you have a Z88 and want to see what Phil has loaded on the eprom cartridge, check out the BBS that he has started and find out. The BBS is **TORRANCE LAPTOP SUPPORT GR. 1-213-370-2754 8/1/N**

PLAYBOY MAG. STARTS TO SHOW CLASS!!!!!!

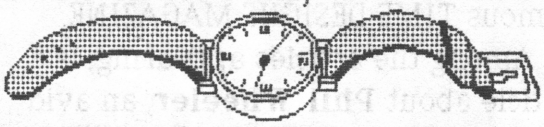


That's right, **Playboy Magazine,** the one that brings the male reader those classy centerfolds. This time their really showing class. The **April** issue has a section called **"SUPERSHOPPER"**. This section is devoted to all those neat gadgets that classy folks need to get by in life.

Well, lo and behold, on **page 172** of the issue, is a very enlarged photo of the **Z88**. That's right folks, the infamous Z88. Of all the wonderous reviews that the famous laptop has gotten, the newest of the **Sinclair** family is now being displayed in **Playboy**. Makes ya want to run right out and buy one, uh!

The discription of the laptop is the same as well as the sticker price of $549.00. But, has any other Sinclair machine made Playboy before? I think not. **NOW, THAT'S CLASS!!!!!**

LAST MINUTE, LATE NEWS



NITE-TIMES NEWS has reported that they are now publishing a bi-monthly newsletter. They also have some very good items in the **Jan/Feb issue**. The issue is packed with some simple projects that can be performed on your T/S 2040 modem. These projects are a LED light that tells you when someone is using the phone and the other is a way to use the 9 Volt power supply of the computer instead of the external supply that is needed. The issue also has a diagram of a QL color composite monitor jack that can be added to the QL, since the factory forgot to add one. The **PLOTTER N/L** reported that the phone number that was given for the **REMEMBER WHEN BBS** was printed wrong. The right number is **(503) 652-5803**.

PROGRAM OF THE MONTH
Here's one for your

TIMEX sinclair

2068

This month, we present a Slot Machine Simulation. Yes, you too can see those cherries, plums, and lemons falling into place. The only thing missing is **real money**. The program is personalized, but it can be changed to your specifications.

When you press the buttons, just imagine yourself in **Las Vegas** or Atlantic City, and have some fun.

0 OK, 0:1

Ralph

```
 10 BORDER 1
 50 REM THIS PROGRAM SIMULATES
THE SLOT MACHINE
 120 PRINT AT 4,8;"WELCOME TO TH
E"
 130 FLASH 1: PRINT AT 6,8;"HAM
MER AUTO";AT 7,8;"    CASINO
    ": FLASH 0
 140 PRINT AT 9,0;"THE CASINO HA
S GIVEN YOU A $100 LINE OF CREDI
T. YOU CAN BET FROM$1 TO $100."
 145 PRINT AT 13,4;"TO PULL THE
ARM, PUSH THE"
 150 FLASH 1: PRINT AT 14,13;"E
NTER": FLASH 0
 160 PRINT AT 15,4;"KEY AFTER MA
KING YOUR BET": GO SUB 1360: PAU
SE 250: CLS
 163 LET P=0
 165 PRINT : PRINT AT 21,11;"YOU
R BET ?"
 170 INPUT M
 180 IF M>100 THEN GO TO 860
 190 IF M<1 THEN GO TO 880
 200 LET M=INT (M)
 205 PRINT : PRINT AT 21,14;M
 210 GO SUB 1270
 220 PRINT
 230 LET X=INT (RND*6)+1
 240 LET Y=INT (RND*6)+1
 250 LET Z=INT (RND*6)+1
 260 PRINT
 270 IF X=1 THEN GO TO 910
 280 IF X=2 THEN GO TO 930
 290 IF X=3 THEN GO TO 950
 300 IF X=4 THEN GO TO 970
 310 IF X=5 THEN GO TO 990
 320 IF X=6 THEN GO TO 1010
 330 IF Y=1 THEN GO TO 1030
 340 IF Y=2 THEN GO TO 1050
 350 IF Y=3 THEN GO TO 1070
 360 IF Y=4 THEN GO TO 1090
 370 IF Y=5 THEN GO TO 1110
 380 IF Y=6 THEN GO TO 1130
 390 IF Z=1 THEN GO TO 1150
 400 IF Z=2 THEN GO TO 1170
 410 IF Z=3 THEN GO TO 1190
 420 IF Z=4 THEN GO TO 1210
 430 IF Z=5 THEN GO TO 1230
 440 IF Z=6 THEN GO TO 1250
 450 IF X=Y THEN GO TO 600
 460 IF X=Z THEN GO TO 630
 470 IF Y=Z THEN GO TO 650
 480 PRINT : PRINT : PRINT : PRI
NT
 490 PRINT : PRINT : PRINT AT 20
,7;"  YOU WON !!!  ": BEEP .9
,-10.5: PAUSE 90
 500 LET P=P-M
 510 PRINT : PRINT "YOUR CASH S
TANDINGS ";P: PAUSE 125
 520 PRINT : PRINT : PRINT AT 21
,7;"TO PLAY AGAIN ?": BEEP .2
,7: BEEP .3,12: BEEP .2,7: BEEP
.4,12: PAUSE 20
 530 INPUT A$
 540 IF A$="Y" OR A$="y" THEN BE
EP .2,12: BEEP .3,7: BEEP .2,12:
BEEP .4,7: GO TO 165
 550 PRINT : PRINT : PRINT : PRI
NT
 560 IF P<0 THEN GO TO 670
 570 IF P=0 THEN GO TO 690
 580 IF P>0 THEN GO TO 710
 590 GO TO 1350
 600 IF Y=Z THEN GO TO 730
 610 IF Y=1 THEN GO TO 820
 620 GO TO 1341
 630 IF Z=1 THEN GO TO 820
 640 GO TO 470
 650 IF Z=1 THEN GO TO 820
 660 GO TO 1341
 670 CLS : PRINT : PRINT : PRINT
AT 11,6;"  PAY YOUR TAB !!  ";
AT 12,0;"LEAVE YOUR MONEY ON THE
MACHINE": GO SUB 1380
 675 GO TO 680
 680 GO TO 1350
 690 CLS : PRINT : PRINT : PRINT
AT 11,0;"HEY, YOU BROKE EVEN, B
ETTER LUCK          NEXT TIME"
 695 GO SUB 1360
 700 GO TO 1350
 710 CLS : PRINT AT 11,1;"COLLEC
T YOUR WINNINGS FROM THE"
 712 PRINT AT 12,9;"HAMMER AUTO
";AT 13,9;"   CASHIER   "
 713 GO SUB 1360
 720 GO TO 1350
 730 IF Z=1 THEN GO TO 780
 740 PRINT : PRINT TAB 7;"***TRO
P COLLAR***": GO SUB 1360
 750 PRINT : PRINT TAB 12;"YOU W
ON !"
 760 LET P=(((10*M)+M)+P)
 770 GO TO 510
 780 PRINT : PRINT TAB 9;"***JA
CKPOT***": GO SUB 1360
 790 PRINT : PRINT TAB 12;"YOU W
ON !"
 800 LET P=(((100*M)+M)+P)
 810 GO TO 510
 820 PRINT : PRINT TAB 9;"**DOUB
LE CARD**": BEEP .2,12: BEEP .
3,7: BEEP .2,12: BEEP .4,7
 830 PRINT : PRINT TAB 12;"YOU W
ON !"
 840 LET P=(((5*M)+M)+P)
 850 GO TO 510
 860 PRINT : PRINT "HOUSE LIMIT
S ARE $100"
 870 GO TO 165
 880 PRINT : PRINT "MINIMUM BET
IS $1"
 890 GO TO 165
 900 GO TO 220
 910 PRINT "BAR";: BEEP .2,4:
GO SUB 1310
 920 GO TO 330
 930 PRINT "BELL";: BEEP .2,4: G
O SUB 1310
 940 GO TO 330
 950 PRINT "ORANGE";: BEEP .2,4:
GO SUB 1310
 960 GO TO 330
 970 PRINT "LEMON";: BEEP .2,4:
GO SUB 1310
 980 GO TO 330
 990 PRINT "PLUM";: BEEP .2,4: G
O SUB 1310
```

```
1000 GO TO 330
1010 PRINT "CHERRY";: BEEP .2,4:
 GO SUB 1310
1020 GO TO 330
1030 PRINT " [illegible]";: BEEP .2,4:
 GO SUB 1310
1040 GO TO 390
1050 PRINT " BELL";: BEEP .2,4:
GO SUB 1310
1060 GO TO 390
1070 PRINT " ORANGE";: BEEP .2,4
: GO SUB 1310
1080 GO TO 390
1090 PRINT " LEMON";: BEEP .2,4:
 GO SUB 1310
1100 GO TO 390
1110 PRINT " PLUM";: BEEP .2,4:
GO SUB 1310
1120 GO TO 390
1130 PRINT " CHERRY";: BEEP .2,4
: GO SUB 1310
1140 GO TO 390
1150 PRINT " [illegible]";: BEEP .4,10
1160 GO TO 450
1170 PRINT " BELL";: BEEP .4,10
1180 GO TO 450
1190 PRINT " ORANGE";: BEEP .4,1
0
1200 GO TO 450
1210 PRINT " LEMON";: BEEP .4,10
1220 GO TO 450
1230 PRINT " PLUM";: BEEP .4,10
1240 GO TO 450
1250 PRINT " CHERRY";: BEEP .4,1
0
1260 GO TO 450
1270 FOR Q=1 TO 160
1280 PRINT CHR$ (7);
1290 NEXT Q
1300 RETURN
1310 FOR T=1 TO 5
1320 PRINT CHR$ (7);
1330 NEXT T
1340 RETURN
1341 PRINT : PRINT : PRINT TAB 1
1;"[illegible]": BEEP .2,12: BEE
P .3,7: BEEP .2,12: BEEP .4,7
1342 PRINT : PRINT TAB 12;"YOU W
ON !"
1343 LET P=(((2*M)+M)+P)
1344 GO TO 510
1350 PAUSE 80: CLS : PRINT AT 12
,4;"[illegible]"
1355 STOP
1360 BEEP .75,12: BEEP .47,8: BE
EP .5,10: BEEP .8,3: BEEP .8,3:
BEEP .5,10: BEEP .5,12: BEEP .9,
8
1370 RETURN
1380 BEEP .7,2: BEEP .7,2: BEEP
.2,2: BEEP .9,2: BEEP .8,5: BEEP
 .3,4: BEEP .4,4: BEEP .4,2: BEE
P .4,2: BEEP .4,1: BEEP 1,2
1390 RETURN
```


UPDATE!

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